



SECOND SESSION - TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

of the

Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan

**DEBATES
and
PROCEEDINGS**

(HANSARD)

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The Honourable Don Toth
Speaker



MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF SASKATCHEWAN

Speaker — Hon. Don Toth
 Premier — Hon. Brad Wall
 Leader of the Opposition — Lorne Calvert

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Belanger, Buckley	NDP	Athabasca
Bjornerud, Hon. Bob	SP	Melville-Saltcoats
Boyd, Hon. Bill	SP	Kindersley
Bradshaw, Fred	SP	Carrot River Valley
Brkich, Greg	SP	Arm River-Watrous
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Calvert, Lorne	NDP	Saskatoon Riversdale
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Wall, Hon. Brad	SP	Swift Current
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Wilson, Nadine	SP	Saskatchewan Rivers
Wotherspoon, Trent	NDP	Regina Rosemont
Yates, Kevin	NDP	Regina Dewdney

[The Assembly met at 13:30.]

[Prayers]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to introduce to you and through you to all members of this Legislative Assembly, a number of student leaders that have joined us today in your gallery.

While there's a group of students here, I'd like to identify a few people. There's Jessica Sinclair, the president of the University of Regina Students' Union or URSU; there's Kristy Fyfe who is the vice-president of external affairs with URSU; Craig Fink, a vice-president of operation and finance with URSU; Sean Dunham, vice-president of student affairs with URSU. And also joining us is Nicole Kenney who is the vice-president of external affairs with the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union.

Mr. Speaker, I'd ask all members to join me in welcoming these students to their legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, thank you. I'd just like to you and through you join the member opposite in welcoming the students from the University of Regina Students' Union as well First Nations University Student Association and the University of Saskatchewan student association. We're delighted to welcome these students to their legislature, as well, and I'm looking forward to having a meeting with them later this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to also introduce Ms. Colleen Konkin, accompanied by her father, Doug. Colleen has joined us today at the legislature as part of the Take Our Kids to Work program. I hope Colleen enjoys her day with her mom — my chief of staff, Mary Donlevy-Konkin — and leaves here with a renewed interest in the good work of our public service and our legislature.

Mr. Speaker, please join me . . . I welcome the members of this legislature in joining me in welcoming all these special guests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Canora-Pelly.

Hon. Mr. Krawetz: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seated in your gallery are 11 guests from the province of Manitoba. It's my pleasure to introduce to you, teacher and

chaperones and students from Riverdale School in Kenville, Manitoba. Mr. Speaker, these students took up a challenge, and the challenge was to walk or jog from their community to Regina, Saskatchewan. And they averaged about 2 or 3 kilometres per day per student. And they arrived on October 29, and they began that journey on October 22.

So I'd like to welcome teacher Darcy Wohlgemuth, chaperones Merlin Bartel, Ang Bartel, and Earl Unruh, and students Tyson, Sheri, Skyler, Megan, Samuel, Jared, and Gabriela. Welcome to the Saskatchewan legislature.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Rosemont.

Mr. Wotherspoon: — Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to join with the minister and have the opposition and both sides of the House again extend our greetings to the students from Riverdale School. And I think that the activity that you embarked on in running a few kilometres each day is a very valiant one. I think most of us in here could probably do a little bit more of that. And we welcome you to Saskatchewan. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Martensville.

Hon. Ms. Heppner: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce to you and through you two of my favourite girls in the whole world. Jasmine Heppner is my niece. She's 14 years old and going in grade 9 at the school in Waldheim, and today is a take-your-kid-to-work day. And she didn't want to haul drywall around with her dad at the lumberyard, so she asked if she could come here with me, and I'm very excited to have her here.

And joining her today is my mom, Arlene Heppner, who is no stranger to this legislature. The last time that Mom was here was the day that I took my seat in opposition, and I'm thrilled that she's today to see us on this side of the House, Mr. Speaker. And I ask that all members welcome them here.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Wall: — Mr. Speaker, if I can just very, very briefly join with the member for Martensville, the Minister of the Environment, in welcoming her guests here — Jasmine and especially Arlene. We don't see her nearly enough here in Regina, understandably so. It's quite a distance. We see her daughter quite a bit, just about the right amount. But we welcome every chance we can to say hello to Arlene and wish her the very, very best. It's great to have her here, and I join with the member in welcoming her to this Legislative Assembly today.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina

Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to introduce to you and through you a school group seated in the eastern gallery. They're no strangers to the legislature. They're very faithful about coming to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker. They're from the Morning Star Christian Academy, and we've got 16 students in grades 6 to 11. They're accompanied by, I believe, Lannette Povey, Shawn Allen — of course, you know, always faithful on this trip; good to see you again, Shawn — and Aimee Holland. I look forward to meeting with them later on, Mr. Speaker, and again add a sincere word of welcome to all the students. I look forward to talking to you in a little bit. And on behalf of all members of the Assembly, welcome to your Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Rosetown-Elrose.

Mr. Reiter: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to you and through you to this Assembly, I'd like to introduce to you in your gallery a friend of mine, Paul Herd. Paul, give us a wave so we know who we're talking about.

Paul's originally from Milden. When he graduated high school, he joined the US [United States] Army, had a stellar 20-plus-year career there. He has since retired from the army and now is in private business in Colorado Springs, Colorado. And I'd like to welcome him to the Assembly. And I'd like to point out to him that there's thousands of people moving back to Saskatchewan, and his family and friends hope eventually he'll join them. Please give him a warm welcome.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Northwest.

Mr. LeClerc: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you and to you to members of the Assembly, I'd like to introduce two members of my constituency. Pastor Jack Dyck who is the brother of Henry Dyck, one of the MAs [ministerial assistant] for our Minister Lyle Stewart . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . our minister, and his nephew Josh who is doing a job shadow today and decided to roam around with his uncle to see what we actually do here. Welcome to our Assembly.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Humboldt.

Hon. Ms. Harpauer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce my chief of staff in your gallery, Laurie Pushor, and he has his son with him for bring-your-kid-to-work day. And so I'd like everyone to welcome Quinn Pushor. And if everyone in the Assembly could please give them a big round of applause.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Indian

Head-Milestone.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, through you and to you to the rest of the Assembly in the west gallery, I would like to introduce Mathew Florizone who is 14 and who is here from Moose Jaw, made the travel over to Regina today. He is accompanied by his dad, Dan Florizone who is the new deputy minister for the Ministry of Health and doing an absolutely wonderful job. Both of you, hopefully you enjoy the proceedings. Perhaps after, Mathew, we can have a little bit of a debriefing as to exactly what happened here, but certainly I'd like all members to join me in welcoming the Florizones.

Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

PRESENTING PETITIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure today to stand and present a petition brought to me by some of the guests that are in our gallery, and the petition is concerning funding for post-secondary education. The prayer reads:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government to increase funding for post-secondary students and help to alleviate the large financial burden placed on students for pursuing a post-secondary education at a Saskatchewan institution.

Mr. Speaker, this petition is signed by over 350 individuals, and it is a pleasure to present this to the Assembly. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Prince Albert Northcote.

Mr. Furber: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I rise to present a petition in support of public safety and security in Saskatchewan. The petition reads as follows:

Wherefore your petitioners humbly pray that your Hon. Legislative Assembly may be pleased to cause the government, in the interest of the safety and security of Saskatchewan families, residents, and communities, to immediately cause the Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to undertake a thorough consultation with a broad group of stakeholders — including the policing community; corrections community; community agencies, organizations, and educators that interface with gangs — so that he might understand the risks and challenges that gangs present to our communities.

As in duty bound, your petitioners will ever pray.

I so present.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Accessibility to Education

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is an important day for students here in Saskatchewan, across Canada, and around the world. November 5 is the International Day of Action against the Commercialization of Education. Here in Canada, students across the country are mobilizing to take action on issues facing post-secondary students. Saskatchewan is no exception, and we are honoured to have students visiting the legislature today.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, the Sask Party government is failing to address the issues facing Saskatchewan students. Over the past four years our university students have been benefiting from an NDP [New Democratic Party] tuition freeze. And now, when the Sask Party government has more resources at its fingertips than ever, Saskatchewan students want that tuition freeze to continue.

And students across our province also want this Sask Party government to address the critical issue of affordable housing because, Mr. Speaker, though we all know students work hard and spend many hours on campus, sleeping in student lounges is simply not an option. Students need affordable, quality housing. But regrettably the Sask Party government just doesn't get it.

Mr. Speaker, accessibility to education is important for all Saskatchewan residents. Success in education means the full participation of our First Nations and Métis people. Saskatchewan students want government action on this to match government talk.

On this important day of action, I would like to congratulate all students who are fighting for a better and fairer post-secondary education system. This NDP official opposition is on your side and working for you.

I would ask all members to join me in extending our appreciation for the students participating in the day of action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Weyburn.

[13:45]

Saskatchewan Economic Growth

Mr. Duncan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, *Fortune Magazine* has named the Premier of Saskatchewan Canada's pro-growth premier. The latest issue of the prestigious financial publication with a readership of 5 million contains an article about Saskatchewan entitled, "Where business is booming." What is remarkable, Mr. Speaker, is that a year ago this sort of exposure was unheard of. Under a this-is-as-good-as-it-gets premier and government, the

Saskatchewan story was not being told.

Well, Mr. Speaker, over the past year things have changed and for the better. Under our government, Saskatchewan has seen historic, unprecedented growth. We will lead Canada in economic growth this year and next year. There are more than 1 million people living in Saskatchewan today. There is unprecedented demand for our natural resources, and that demand has allowed us to reduce the provincial debt by almost 40 per cent, invest more than \$1 billion in infrastructure, and give the people of Saskatchewan the largest ever single-year income tax cut.

Our government is taking steps to ensure that everybody feels the benefits of our new-found prosperity through measures such as the new low-income tax credit and the first increase to the seniors' income program in 16 years.

Mr. Speaker, our pro-growth government refuses to buy into this this-is-as-good-as-it-gets mentality, and we're building a stronger Saskatchewan and a better life for all Saskatchewan people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Bicycles for Humanity Fundraiser

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, October 25, almost 1,000 people flocked to Prairieland Park to kick off a fundraiser presented by the Saskatoon chapter of Bicycles for Humanity.

This international organization raises money to collect new and gently used bicycles to send to the African nation in Namibia. Namibia is a peaceful country hard hit by the AIDS epidemic that has devastated the country's economy. There is inadequate transportation to take people to their jobs, to school, or to transport food and water. Women and children may walk 20 or 30 miles a day to retrieve necessities for their families. In many villages AIDS patients have no access to ambulances to transport them to health clinics, and health workers have no transportation to visit patients in rural areas, delaying access and treatment for serious health conditions.

Bicycles for Humanity works to mitigate these harsh living conditions by shipping good new and used bicycles for use. The new Saskatoon chapter of this charity offered an evening of dining and entertainment for which the entry fee was the donation of a new or usable bike. Volunteer mechanics from the community ensured that the bikes were in fine repair and helped to pack them into two shipping containers to be transported to the West Coast shipping port by Yanke Transport.

Bike mechanics from Bike Doctor and Doug's Spoke 'n Sport supervised volunteers' work on the bikes, and Brainsport the Running Store helped to assemble and pack the bikes and also donated hundreds of good, reusable running shoes for Namibians.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Bicycles for Humanity for

this worthwhile mission. I also thank all of the many generous and energetic community volunteers who participated in Saskatoon's first contribution to this charity.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina South.

North Central Family Centre Halloween Party

Hon. Mr. Hutchinson: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A short while ago a wonderful, although not very sports savvy friend in Winnipeg called to wager 10 pounds of chicken wings that the Winnipeg Blue Bombers would defeat our Saskatchewan Roughriders at the annual Labour Day Classic. I happily agreed and waited the inevitable outcome of the game.

After the Riders won, my friend bet another 10 pounds on the Banjo Bowl. Having lost both games, he called to say, what are you going to do with 20 pounds of chicken wings? A good question indeed, Mr. Speaker.

I called my very good friends, Marty, Laurie, and Lowell Lanigan who operate Brewsters in south Regina, successful business people with a big heart who are always ready to help out their community. They immediately decided to more than match my Winnipeg friend's kind contribution by turning it into a full meal, complete with a beautiful salad, and donated it to the children's Halloween party at the North Central Family Centre. And what an incredible event it turned out to be.

Some 200 north central youngsters were treated to a hearty meal and a fabulous evening of Halloween entertainment, provided by all the hard-working volunteers at the centre. Mr. Speaker, to see beaming smiles on these 200 young faces was an inspirational and truly memorable experience.

Sincere thanks to Sandy Wankel, Ivan Amichand, Ben Hernando, and their volunteer team at the North Central Family Centre for their dedicated efforts. And special thanks to the Lanigan brothers and Brewsters for turning a mere football wager into a community event to remember.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, a cheery hello to my buddy, Dr. Brian Ritchie, in Winnipeg, whose commendable — although arguably misguided — passion for football made this great adventure possible.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Moose Jaw Wakamow.

Moose Jaw Pre-Health Professions Club

Ms. Higgins: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in September the students from Prairie South and Holy Trinity school divisions, both from within Moose Jaw and the surrounding area, discovered more about careers in nursing, medicine, and pharmacy. This is all thanks to an exciting mentorship program that is a key feature of the new Pre-Health Professions Club.

The club brings together post-secondary institutions, school divisions, health regions, and practising health care professionals to share information and hopefully spark an interest in the students taking part.

A few months ago, nearly 100 students took part in the first session of the club. The next session took place in September and focused on mentorship with professionals in the health care field, and the commitment required for this type of career. Students also learned about safety and confidentiality.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all members to join me in congratulating the consultants and the coordinators who brought about this innovative idea. I would also like to show appreciation for the health care professionals involved and wish the student participants much success in their desired field of study. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Lloydminster.

Reaction to Speech from the Throne

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday our Premier rose to speak about this government's Throne Speech, a Throne Speech that included historic debt reduction, the largest income tax cut in our province's history, the largest ever investment in infrastructure, and a prudent fiscal insurance policy. What did the members opposite do, Mr. Speaker?

The Premier rose to speak, and they turned their backs. Mr. Speaker, the members opposite did not just turn their backs on the Premier . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Yesterday I asked members to be mindful of how they express themselves and manners in which they may cast aspersion on other members, and I would ask members to be mindful of that when they are doing their member statements, as well as any other time in the Assembly. The member from Lloydminster.

Mr. McMillan: — Mr. Speaker, through the Throne Speech they turned their backs on those who were helping the people of Saskatchewan, regardless of age or income level. Mr. Speaker, they turned their backs on a speech; they turned their backs on the people of Saskatchewan. Shame, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one year . . .

The Speaker: — Order. Order. I just ask the member to be mindful of casting negative aspersion against other members. And I would ask the member, if he has anything to add that does not cast that aspersion, I would recognize the member.

Mr. McMillan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one year ago this Friday the people of Saskatchewan voted for a change in Saskatchewan, and they got it. This summer the people of Saskatchewan told us loud and clear what their priorities were, and this Throne Speech was that. Mr. Speaker, I'm very proud to stand behind this Throne Speech. It makes a stronger Saskatchewan and a better life for everyone. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Athabasca.

Volunteers in Northern Communities

Mr. Belanger: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to people that make an incredible contribution to our northern communities. Many times the forgotten northern people feel isolated and alone, and these spiritual leaders volunteer their time to help many of these people that are suffering or need assistance. The people that I speak of assist in funerals, weddings, and prayer services. They help with baptism and confirmations. They help with choirs and help look after our churches. They console our elders and the sick, and they counsel our youth and help forge our children's beliefs. Mr. Speaker, they add so very much to our communities and our families. I am speaking of our lay ministers and church leaders that assist our dedicated clergy.

Mr. Speaker, I'm humbled by the love and dedication that these men and women have for their people. I name the following people in this Assembly to honour and thank them for their great service as lay ministers and leaders of our parishes: Louis Dubrule, Dorothy Dubrule, Leonie Durocher, Yvette Daigneault, Martin Durocher, Louis Roy, Alfred Petite, David Seright, Gloria Desjarlais, Marie Favel, Victoria Daigneault; Nancy Hartley, Joyce Raymond, Doris Woods, Marie Adele Desjarlais, Rose Raymond, Marie Trotter, Monique Bouvier, Adelaide Bouvier, and Nora Corrigan.

Mr. Speaker, while these are just a few of our church volunteers from Ile-a-la-Crosse and Buffalo, there are many more in many other communities in the North that do serve. I say in this Assembly, I thank God for all these people. And I want all of us to show our appreciation to them and thank them.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

QUESTION PERIOD

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Support for Post-Secondary Education

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Students across Saskatchewan are participating in a day of action to call on this government to make education a priority. Some of them have joined us here today. These students and their counterparts across the province are calling on the minister to crack open the government vault just slightly and spend at least some of the massive government surplus to make sure that post-secondary education is both accessible and affordable.

Mr. Speaker, they don't want rhetoric or catch phrases. They want a commitment. They want action. To the minister: will he continue the tuition freeze for Saskatchewan students — yes or no?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question. It's a great news story for the support that we've demonstrated to our advanced educational institutions. Rhetoric versus reality — 15 per cent increase to support those institutions. That's one of the fundamental components, Mr. Speaker, of ensuring quality education, accessible education, affordable education.

Mr. Speaker, then we can turn and say, look, the provincial training allowance, gone up twice already, Mr. Speaker — empirical realities. Mr. Speaker, we can then look at the graduate retention program, not only launched but expanded already, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that we have the most aggressive youth retention program in the country. Mr. Speaker.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, what you've just noticed is 80,000 people in this province taken off the tax rolls, Mr. Speaker, including students, something overlooked by the last government, Mr. Speaker. We're taking tangible, real steps to help support our students.

And I was happy to be on a campus this morning to ensure that we're in touch with the students and our scholars and our researchers and our institutions, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Well, Mr. Speaker, I'll have to wait for the English translation, but I think it's safe to assume that there's a no in there.

Mr. Speaker, the minister has told reporters that continuing the tuition freeze is likely out of the question. Instead he says he prefers to move to a quote "tuition fee management system." But like many of the minister's catchphrases, students are left scratching their heads, trying to understand what the minister means.

To the minister: what is a tuition management system and how is it not simply a euphemism for skyrocketing tuition fees?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, it is on the shifting sands of sanctimony the member stands. Mr. Speaker, maybe what we should do, Mr. Speaker, as a Pavlovian experiment, when we begin to talk about, Mr. Speaker, tuition increases, we can look at your record. We can see that under the former government, 99 per cent increase in tuition at the University of Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker; 88 per cent increase, Mr. Speaker, at the University of Regina.

Mr. Speaker, fully respecting the autonomy of those institutions, that member has a long way before he can point any fingers, Mr. Speaker. But there's one small point and that

is, a former minister of Learning weighed into this issue on February 10, 2005 saying, anywhere that we've seen tuition freezes put in across the country, they haven't worked. That was none other than the former and maybe the future minister of Learning, and that was Andrew Thomson.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, I can understand how these northern Republicans are in a bad headspace today, but even by this minister's standards these answers are just not adequate and quite frankly confusing.

Mr. Speaker, instead of just admitting that he plans to make students pay more at a time when his government is sitting on billions of dollars, the minister described his plan as a paradigm shift. Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, the minister can talk about the new tuition paradigm all he wants, but at the end of the day he is simply forcing Saskatchewan students to pay more. The minister keeps sitting on billions and billions, while the students have to dig deeper and deeper into their own pockets. So much for accessible education. And what his tuition management system really means is that students will be managing increased student debt and juggling more part-time work.

To the minister: will he put aside the rhetoric today and admit that his plan simply means that students and families will pay more?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, let me reinforce the significant contributions and commitment this government has for students, for scholars, and for institutions of advanced education. What we haven't seen, Mr. Speaker, we haven't seen the member opposite say a word about the VIDO [Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization] contribution, nothing about the contribution to First Nations University, nothing regarding the 900 new apprenticeships, nothing regarding the creation of a new regional college, nothing regarding the installation of a new president at the University of Regina. What we have seen though is a small pronouncement regarding the academic health sciences with reference to chump change. Mr. Speaker, a virtual critic he is.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Massey Place.

Mr. Broten: — Mr. Speaker, students are tired of the minister's

rhetoric, as we all are. Students are clear, Mr. Speaker: they want the tuition freeze to continue. But the minister is choosing to ignore them. For months the minister has been talking about engaging stakeholders and discussing his paradigm shift, and for months the phones of student leaders have been silent.

To the minister: why is he ignoring the voices of those who will be forced to pay more as a result of his so-called plan?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — You know, Mr. Speaker, it's unfortunate when empirical inaccuracies come up because that's just not the case. We have sat down with students, Mr. Speaker, and we're going to continue with those consultations. In fact we're going to meet a little later today and we're arranging to meet with other stakeholders.

Again, Mr. Speaker, again let me reinforce: over a 15 per cent increase in support for our institutions, Mr. Speaker. We have the largest and most significant graduate retention program of any Canadian province — recently expanded, Mr. Speaker — and that way we can ensure that our young people are staying here. Thirty-five thousand people left the province between 2001 and 2006. We're seeing 16,000 people have moved back, Mr. Speaker, to come into institutions. But most especially to our students, to our scholars, to our researchers, affordability, accessibility — that's a key component of any strategy moving forward.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member for Saskatoon Centre.

[14:00]

Student Housing

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the fall of 2007, Saskatoon has been having problems with student housing, and the top student housing problems are affordability and availability.

With on-campus sites filled to the brim, even off-campus sites do not have enough vacancies to deal with the increasing number of people in the area. And even when students are able to find a place to stay, it's usually overpriced. Even with student loans, it would still be difficult to pay for such high rent bills while studying.

Mr. Speaker, to the minister: what are you doing about the sorry state of student housing in Saskatoon?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, we understand the significance of housing, not just simply for students but for the

people of this province. The easy answer is, we're doing a lot more than that former government ever did.

There are conversations going on with two institutions, Mr. Speaker, regarding student housing. And, Mr. Speaker, the goal here is to ensure that students are better positioned to spend more time on their studies, thereby ensuring that they're more successful as they enter employment. Mr. Speaker, that's why we're taking care of the graduate retention program — we've just expanded it.

So we see a number of initiatives, Mr. Speaker. There are dialogues under way with two different institutions, and that's two more than ever occurred under that former government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to the latest report from the Canadian home mortgage corporation in June this year, Saskatoon is tied with Vancouver for the fourth lowest vacancy rate in the country at 0.9 per cent. Saskatchewan as a whole had a vacancy rate of only 1.2 per cent. With these historically low vacancy rates, soon housing is more of an issue than it's ever been before.

To the minister: how low does the vacancy rate have to go before this government will act?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, once again obviously the housing issue is quite critical, and that's why a report was commissioned. That's why two respected former MLAs [Member of the Legislative Assembly] came forward. That's why their recommended immediate steps were undertaken by myself and, most especially, one of my cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, the dialogue that's under way is helping to correct part of the infrastructure deficit that has been allowed to compound over the last 16 years. So if you want to make specific reference to Saskatoon, how much student construction went on in Saskatoon over the last 16 years? None, Mr. Speaker. None. And that, Mr. Speaker, is a sad legacy of that party.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Mr. Speaker, again according to the latest report from CMHC [Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation], rates for apartments are skyrocketing. The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Saskatoon has gone up by 13 per cent and the average rent of a two-bedroom apartment in Saskatoon has gone up by 21 per cent. Compare that to Winnipeg at 2 per cent or even Calgary at 5 per cent.

Rents are going up, vacancy rates are at a historic low, and students are getting squeezed.

Mr. Speaker, why doesn't this minister have a plan to deal with this?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Once again, Mr. Speaker, obviously the housing shortage, it's endemic across the province. It's part of the sad legacy of the previous government.

Most especially, Mr. Speaker, steps were taken. A report was commissioned. Steps have been taken to act immediately on that report. Mr. Speaker, as far as attempting to take action, one has to ensure that this can be done in a prudent, sustained framework. And, Mr. Speaker, what we can see from there, the dialogue is under way, twofold dialogue, two different institutions to help ensure that our post-secondary students have more affordable housing, more opportunities to focus on their studies, to graduate, to take their rightful place as being employed, staying here, keeping Saskatchewan home, Mr. Speaker. That's in stark contrast to the 35,000 people that left between 2001 and 2006, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Centre.

Mr. Forbes: — Well, Mr. Speaker, it's not just an issue for Regina and Saskatoon. Soon housing is an issue all over the province. Look at Meadow Lake, for example. We're told there is absolutely no affordable student housing to be had and that this is causing serious problems. We are told that North West Regional College in Meadow Lake is reducing the number of courses that they offer because students are signing up for classes and then finding out that there's nowhere to live and so they are forced to drop out.

To the minister: is it the case that North West Regional College in Meadow Lake has had to cancel classes because students dropped out because there is no student housing? And if so, what is the minister going to do about it?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, I certainly appreciate the question. The housing challenge confronting Saskatchewan is a result of growth, Mr. Speaker. That is, there are challenges associated with growth. But those stand in stark contrast to the challenges associated with decline, and that . . .

The Speaker: — I recognize the minister.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — A growth agenda, Mr. Speaker, we know there are challenges associated with it. Obviously housing for

students is part of that. But, Mr. Speaker, the challenges associated with growth are far more advantageous to the people of this province than the problems associated with the decline that the previous government oversaw, Mr. Speaker. That was their approach.

They were content to have a small, wee province, Mr. Speaker. They were content to see 35,000 people leave the province. We're more than pleased to see 16,000 people either move back to or move to for the first time, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, there is more work to do. It's part of a sad legacy of the infrastructure deficit that the former government left to the people of this province.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Post-Secondary Education for First Nations and Métis Students

Mr. McCall: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure how that houses the students in Meadow Lake.

But another area of concern for members on this side of the House is what that government is doing to ensure more First Nations and Métis students are able to access post-secondary education. While members opposite have been reluctant to stand up to their good buddy Stephen Harper, we hope that they agree that this issue is too important to let their marching orders from Ottawa Tories get in the way.

To the Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations: what is she going to do and what is she doing to ensure that Ottawa steps up and fulfills the responsibility to Aboriginal people with respect to access to post-secondary education?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Advanced Education, Employment and Labour.

Hon. Mr. Norris: — Mr. Speaker, we really appreciate this question. For a reference point, we have over 12,700 First Nation and Métis students in the advanced educational system, Mr. Speaker. We know there's more work to do, but we're satisfied that there are some initial steps.

As far as progress being made co-operatively with the federal government and other partners, I can simply turn to a few examples. Mr. Speaker, the labour market agreement, we were the third province to sign that early this year, Mr. Speaker. That allowed us to ensure that those monies were inserted into our budget, and it's helping to ensure that more training is under way.

Second, Mr. Speaker, the ASEP [Aboriginal skills and employment partnership] initiative, that's a \$33 million initiative. It's a public-private partnership where the federal government has come in with a little over \$15 million, we've come in with over \$6 million, and the private sector has come in

with the rest. That's going to ensure that over 1,500 people are trained in the North with reference to First Nation and Métis peoples.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a couple of examples that reinforce co-operative federalism. Co-operative federalism, Mr. Speaker, something that was elusive to the previous government, is helping to ensure our First Nation and Métis peoples . . . We're making progress incrementally, but significantly, Mr. Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — He did everything but sing “. . . give appeasement a chance,” Mr. Speaker.

At present, the fundamental source of funding for the case of First Nations students is the post-secondary student support program or the PSSP. The program provides funding to treaty First Nation and Inuit students to help them access post-secondary education. Over the years cuts and changes to transfers have meant that funding was capped, resulting in many fewer First Nations students being helped. Currently there are hundreds of Saskatchewan First Nations students unable to access this support.

To the minister . . . And, you know, perhaps the First Nations minister doesn't want to answer this; maybe the Advanced Ed does: have they told Ottawa to take the cap off post-secondary student support program? And what are they doing to ensure that Ottawa addresses the wait-list so that First Nations students can access post-secondary education?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to answer this question on behalf of the First Nations and Métis people and our government. We know that there is a real scarcity of money in many cases for post-secondary education. It was the letter that I wrote the day that the new minister was announced, just a week and a half ago. I asked for a meeting immediately to talk about the first issue that we have in this government for First Nations, and that is education. We know that it has to be addressed. We know there was a 2 per cent cap.

We know that we've, as a province, stepped forward. We've put money into First Nations University. We put money into Dumont Institute. We've put more money into additional training seats. And we know the federal government has a responsibility, and our government is pressing the federal government to work with the First Nations to do something.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Regina Elphinstone-Centre.

Mr. McCall: — Well I'm glad to hear it, Mr. Speaker, because

the members opposite mumbled into their desks when the federal Conservative cousins in Ottawa tore up the Kelowna accord. In fact some of the members opposite helped to tear it up. And now with First Nations being shortchanged, their response does not get the job done for First Nations access to post-secondary ed. Even worse, Mr. Speaker, members opposite have presided over a startling decrease in off-reserve Aboriginal employment when the first six months of 2008 saw the gains of 2007 completely wiped out.

Mr. Speaker, will the minister commit to publishing the response that she gets from the minister, from the feds? And will she provide ample opportunity for First Nations to get that critical access to post-secondary education? Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for First Nations and Métis Relations.

Hon. Ms. Draude: — Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be part of a government that recognizes First Nations issues, not just in this ministry, but across our whole government.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

Hon. Ms. Draude: — And we are very pleased to see that Saskatchewan has seen a 2,500 job increase for off-reserve Aboriginal employment. We had the Aboriginal labour force increase by 2,500 people. Aboriginal unemployment rate was a 12.6 per cent decrease. The unemployment rate has been trending down over the last number of years. And we know that the rate between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal rates is actually closing.

For off-reserve Aboriginal youth employment, in September 2008 compared to 2007, employment was up 500 to 8,100 jobs for Aboriginal youth. We are very pleased that our young people — First Nations and non-First Nations and Métis people — can be a part of our growing economy and part of our province and we're proud of them.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Support for Livestock Producers

Ms. Atkinson: — Mr. Speaker, yesterday when questioned about providing livestock producers with assistance, the Minister of Agriculture said, and I quote, "We're working with our producers to see where they would like to go."

On August 1, 2008, a letter was sent to Sask Party MLAs on behalf of Saskatchewan livestock producers expressing, and I quote: "... extreme frustration with the lack of positive livestock policy formed by the Saskatchewan Government to date."

Clearly this letter states where livestock producers would like to go. The letter says, and I quote: "... we are asking the Provincial Government for immediate financial assistance to

maintain Saskatchewan's cattle industry . . ."

Will the minister provide livestock producers with the immediate financial assistance that they're asking for?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the member opposite, as I had stated yesterday, I think we're doing a number of things to help the livestock industry out there. The first one might be the education tax rebate that we're increasing every year — far more than that government ever did in 16 years for rural Saskatchewan and rural producers. Bringing the AgriStability administration back to Saskatchewan is looked upon as a real positive by the livestock industry.

But I might go on to add, and I'd like to have a quote here from the *Edmonton Journal*, October 31, and this is about what's happened in Alberta, and this is from the hog industry. "Province misled us, hog farmers say; Alberta Pork says secret changes to program reduced funds for producers, suppliers, [and] lenders."

What he's talking about is the ad hoc payment in Alberta is now being clawed back from the AgriStability program so they're not one bit farther ahead than the producers in Saskatchewan. The ad hoc did absolutely no good for producers in Alberta.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Yesterday the minister stood in the Assembly and said, and I quote:

I have made one commitment to the livestock industry here and I stand behind it. We will not force them into any program like Alberta has done until they ask for it, and then we will assist them to go that way.

Well Saskatchewan producers are clear. They want a program that places them at a level playing field with Alberta producers. The August 1 letter states, and I quote, "Without similar and immediate support for Saskatchewan's cattle producers, a significant reduction in forage acreage and cattle numbers within the province will occur." Is this a do-nothing government, or will the minister stand today and honour his commitment to Saskatchewan livestock producers and provide them with a program so that they're on a level playing field with Alberta stock growers?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

[14:15]

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well, Mr. Speaker, what the member is talking about here is not considered by Alberta producers as

being very dollar-friendly to their operations. I have a couple more quotes that I'd like to give. "Alberta livestock payments will be considered eligible income under AgriStability."

Now the member opposite, I'm sure, understands what that means. They got an ad hoc payment, so if a producer in Alberta got a \$50,000 cheque, and now they go to apply for AgriStability — the same as we have the option to do in Saskatchewan — that \$50,000 is clawed back because it's shown as income. They have no opportunity to have any benefit because our producers can also apply under AgriStability to get their payment out of it, except they won't have the clawback. They'll be on the same footing with the Alberta producers.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to mention what Brad Wildeman, president of the CCA [Canadian Cattlemen's Association] had to say. "Part of the initial opposition to the program is the mandatory part of it and also the way it was delivered without industry consultation."

Mr. Speaker, that's what I mentioned yesterday. We are working with our producers. We're working with our producers in joining with Alberta to see where traceability and age verification, premise ID [identification], and all those things are going to lead us, Mr. Speaker. We are working with our industry.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the member from Saskatoon Nutana.

Ms. Atkinson: — Well, Mr. Speaker, we have a letter signed by three representatives of the industry. Now, Mr. Speaker . . . [inaudible interjection] . . . Well I would think that Bob Ivey, Bill Jameson, and Ed Bothner represent the stock growers in this province.

Mr. Speaker, the government opposite said in their Throne Speech that there were economic challenges facing the livestock industry and the need to develop long-term strategies for growth and co-operation with the livestock industry.

Mr. Speaker, in the recommendation accompanying the letter, cattle producers outlined a short-term, immediate strategy. They want a support payment of \$148 million. Will the minister listen to these livestock producers, and will he commit an aid payment of \$148 million so that we have some semblance of an industry in this province a year from now?

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Bjornerud: — Well thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the member opposite must have a really short memory because last year, for the November 7 election, does she remember what the NDP's commitment was to agriculture producers in this province? To exclude them from any education tax rebate increase in the province of Saskatchewan. Should I repeat that, Mr. Speaker? Once again, ignore and exclude agriculture producers in this province from any education tax rebate.

Mr. Speaker, that government when they were in power totally ignored rural Saskatchewan, didn't count agriculture as any part of the economy in this province. Totally opposite, Mr. Speaker, from where a Saskatchewan Party government come from because we represent all of Saskatchewan, including rural Saskatchewan.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The members will come to order.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Speaker: — I recognize the Government Whip.

Mr. Weekes: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the answer to question no. 86.

The Speaker: — Answer to question 86 is tabled.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

SECOND READINGS

Bill No. 53 — *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008*

The Speaker: — Order. I call members to order so that I can hear the Bill that's being called by the Clerk. I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008*. This Act was introduced to remove a restriction in the way that the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan is allowed to conduct the routine investigations into quality of care issues, including patient deaths.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, this Bill will allow the college to release information about these investigations to external stakeholders. This would include health regions and other stakeholders who are investigating the same or a similar matter. The amendment also allows the college to share this information with the Minister of Health where it believes that providing the information is likely to improve health care delivery in Saskatchewan.

Mr. Speaker, this proposed amendment applies only to investigations, and studies issues related to patient care including patient death. It is important to note that this amendment does not apply to investigations conducted into physician discipline or competency.

Mr. Speaker, we have discussed this amendment with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the regulating body that requests this amendment to the Act. We have also consulted with the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the Saskatchewan Registered Nurses' Association, the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists, representatives from the regional health authorities, the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, and the Office of the Information and Privacy

Commissioner. These groups all support the changes.

Mr. Speaker, I'm confident this amendment will be beneficial in a number of ways. First, by permitting the college to share information about routine investigations with appropriate groups, this amendment will help to ensure optimal quality of care for Saskatchewan patients. Second, it will also help to encourage co-operation in investigations and reduce redundancy.

Mr. Speaker, physicians are a vital part of our health care system in this province. The high quality care they provide must be supported. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to move second reading of *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008*.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has moved second reading of Bill No. 53, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise on the second reading of Bill No. 53, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act, 2008*. Listening carefully just now to the Minister of Health, and having read the Act as it was introduced over the last week, Mr. Speaker, I'm inclined to indicate temperate support for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, New Democrats have always respected the role of people who are involved in the medical professions. We have a great deal of respect for the organizations representing the professions, those who are regulating the professions, and those who are providing direction and education to those who are within the professions. Mr. Speaker, public safety is important. Ensuring that we have a process that provides protection of members of the public, Mr. Speaker, is indeed a shared responsibility between members of government and the professions.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, we have many organizations around the province where there are industry and sector representatives, public representatives appointed to take care of in some cases consumer protection, in other cases public protection. It exists for not only the medical profession but also the legal profession and even, Mr. Speaker, the real estate profession.

Members may know that for a number of years I was a commissioner on the Saskatchewan Real Estate Commission, providing professional advice to the sector and at the same time ensuring public protection. I have a great deal of respect for those who have committed themselves to serving the public.

So, Mr. Speaker, the minister in his remarks referenced a number of the professional associations that have been consulted on this Bill, professional associations who he says have now agreed and support the legislation in front of us. Mr. Speaker, as members of the official opposition, it's incumbent upon us to ensure that not only the minister's word is strong but also, Mr. Speaker, that we discuss these matters with those associations as well.

So, Mr. Speaker, indicating our support for any efforts that will

expand public protection and indicating a need to ensure that that's exactly what this Bill does, Mr. Speaker, today I would like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 53, *The Medical Profession Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — The member from The Battlefords has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 49 — *The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Health.

Hon. Mr. McMorris: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008*.

Mr. Speaker, this Act was introduced to repeal obsolete sections of *The Ambulance Act* and portions that are covered in other legislation. Notably, Mr. Speaker, this Bill repeals sections of the Act pertaining to the ambulance boards and ambulance districts which no longer exist.

Also it is no longer necessary to include registration and licensure of paramedics in *The Ambulance Act*. Recently *The Paramedics Act* was proclaimed. It now provides self-regulation for the profession.

The amendment also repeals sections of *The Ambulance Act* dealing with provisions of granting for emergency medical services. This area is covered under *The Regional Health Services Act* which provides the authority to the Minister of Health.

Mr. Speaker, we have discussed these amendments with representatives of the regional health authorities and with SEMSA, the Saskatchewan Emergency Medical Services Association. These groups support the changes. I am confident that this spirit of co-operation will move us forward as our EMS [emergency medical services] sector continues to evolve to meet the need of patients.

Mr. Speaker, our ambulance service and emergency medical services personnel are a vital part of the health care delivery system in Saskatchewan. The high quality service they provide must be supported. These changes will help ensure that legislation governing this section is current and appropriate. Our government is committed to work with health regions and ambulance services to improve emergency medical services and access to those services.

With that, I move second reading of *The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: — The Minister of Health has moved second reading of Bill No. 49, *The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008*. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased today to rise on second reading of Bill No. 49, *The Ambulance Amendment Act*. And again, having listened to the Minister of Health and having read the Bill, I have a few comments to make at this point. But, Mr. Speaker, certainly on *The Ambulance Amendment Act* there are still more things that we are going to need to know, and of course there are quite a number of questions that need to be asked.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, New Democrats have demonstrated in the past, and will continue to demonstrate, that we very much respect and honour the work of ambulance operators, the people who work for them, and more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the developments that have occurred recently with regards to expanded role of paramedics, not only within the ambulance system but within the health system as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the expanded role of paramedics in rural Saskatchewan is improving the quality of health delivery to residents across the province, but more importantly to rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker. And members of SEMSA in particular have brought forward to the previous government, and I know to the current government, quite a number of ideas and arguments about continuing to develop the role of the ambulance provider in rural Saskatchewan for improving the quality of health care there.

[14:30]

I think, Mr. Speaker, the fact that *The Ambulance Act* has been opened as a result of these amendments brought forward gives us an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to perhaps explore some additional areas that have yet to be explored to this date. So, Mr. Speaker, I think there are opportunities here for further consultations with the industries, with the regional health authorities, and with the public, Mr. Speaker. There are opportunities here perhaps to expand this legislation before it's passed by this legislature to truly represent the needs of Saskatchewan people, especially those in rural Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker, as far as their ambulance services go and the delivery of emergency health care.

So, Mr. Speaker, knowing that we still have some consultation to do with the various and respected associations and representative groups and the public, Mr. Speaker, today I would move adjournment of debate on Bill No. 49, *The Ambulance Amendment Act*.

The Speaker: — The member from The Battlefords has moved adjournment of debate on Bill No. 49, *The Ambulance Amendment Act, 2008*. Is it the privilege of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 47 — *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2008*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister Responsible for Energy and Resources.

Hon. Mr. Boyd: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I

rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 47, *An Act to amend The Pipelines Act, 1998*, henceforth known as *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2008*.

Mr. Speaker, the amendments that we are bringing forward in this Bill are housekeeping in nature. They're designed to expand the definition of pipeline to include all pipelines that might be used in the province for the transportation of carbon dioxide.

Our system under the current legislation allows for the transportation of crude oil and natural gas by pipeline as well as the pipelining of carbon dioxide where the carbon dioxide is incidental to or used in the production of crude oil and natural gas.

When the Act was initially brought in, the only anticipated need for carbon dioxide pipelines related to the use of carbon dioxide or CO₂ to enhance the recovery of crude oil from underground reservoirs.

And the best example of that, of course, are the CO₂ enhanced oil recovery projects operated by EnCana oil and gas partnership at Weyburn and Apache Canada Ltd. at Midale. These projects are the leading edge work done by the Petroleum Technology Research Centre, in connection with them, that have garnered international acclaim. Indeed Saskatchewan has become a world leader in research connected to carbon dioxide capture and storage.

And it's in that regard this existing legislation needs amendment, for as it currently stands *The Pipelines Act, 1998* does not apply to the transportation of carbon dioxide by pipeline for purposes outside those related to enhanced oil recovery.

Mr. Speaker, with the concern we all share around addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, we see the potential for carbon dioxide captured from industrial facilities to be transported by pipeline to disposal sites. At such sites, the carbon dioxide then would be injected safely into underground saline or other suitable geological formations.

We will be removing these gases from our atmosphere and effectively combatting climate change. We want to be able to facilitate new CO₂ storage projects, and the expansion of the definition of pipeline will ensure that these types of carbon dioxide pipelines are subject to the same regulatory oversight around safety and the environment as the other pipelines currently licensed under the Act.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will bring our legislation in line with legislation administered in other jurisdictions. I specifically note the pipeline legislation administered in Alberta by Energy Resources Conservation Board and at the federal level by the National Energy Board. I should also note that the major companies and associations that make up our oil and gas industry have been consulted on these changes and are supportive of them.

Mr. Speaker, it's my pleasure to move the second reading of *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2008*.

The Speaker: — It has been moved by the Minister of Energy and Resources that Bill No. 47, *The Pipelines Amendment Act, 2008* be now read the second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from Regina Dewdney.

Mr. Yates: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm extremely pleased this afternoon to enter into the debate on *An Act to amend The Pipelines Act, 1998*.

Mr. Speaker, on the surface this piece of legislation appears to be mostly housekeeping and those changes that are made are in the interest of industry.

We believe that, Mr. Speaker, but we still have some work to do to check with industry to ensure that this is what industry would like done and they'd like it done in this particular manner. And, Mr. Speaker, in order to ensure that we do the job that we have as opposition to ensure that this is what the stakeholders in this province want, Mr. Speaker, we need some time to meet and consult with industry to see if this is adequate for what their needs are moving forward in our ever-growing and emerging gas and oil industry in Saskatchewan, Mr. Speaker.

And because these industries are so important to the future of our province, we need to take the time to ensure that this is what they want, Mr. Speaker, and that we know that that's what they want, Mr. Speaker. So for those reasons, Mr. Speaker, at this time I'd like to adjourn debate on Bill No. 47, *An Act to amend The Pipelines Act, 1998*.

The Speaker: — The member from Regina has moved adjournment of debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Agreed. Carried.

Bill No. 42 — *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Justice.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008*. Mr. Speaker, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008* contains amendments that will further the implementation of the passport system of securities regulation. The amendments will further the creation of a seamless, harmonized securities regime in Canada where market participants can access capital markets throughout our country, while dealing with one regulator or one set of laws.

Many of these amendments repeal the registration and other related provisions in *The Securities Act, 1988*. These repealed provisions will be replaced by a national instrument that contains the harmonized registration requirements that will apply in all jurisdictions in Canada. This national instrument is expected to come into force in 2009.

The result of these amendments and the subsequent adoption of National Instrument 31-103 *Registration Requirements* is a creation of a single window of access to capital markets in participating provinces and territories. The harmonized

registration requirements means that a participant will only have to register in one jurisdiction instead of 13, Mr. Speaker. The amendments seek to continue the harmonization of regulatory requirements and lessen compliant costs for Canadian businesses, while increasing protection for those who invest in them.

The provisions in this Bill contain detailed rules issues such as, firstly, new and improved definitions that reflect the change from a trade trigger to a broader in-the-business-of trigger for registration that is consistent with models in the United States and other countries. These definitions are being adopted in all provinces and territories in Canada.

It also includes the power to impose terms and conditions on registrations at any time. It also includes the power to review and require changes to a registrant's promotional material. It also includes provisions dealing with applications for a discretionary exemption and the Saskatchewan Financial Services Commission's power to make an exemption order in certain enumerated situations. It also provides clarification of the power of the commission to assure a reciprocal order based on a decision of a regulator or court in another jurisdiction, and the hearing process for such orders, and also deals with consumer protection measures that allow a claimant to reserve the right of action in civil courts pending a decision from the commission. These measures create civil rights of action for misrepresentation in issuers' secondary market disclosure.

The Canadian Securities Administrators worked with all of the provinces and territories to develop harmonized registration requirements in national instrument 31-103 registration requirements. The Canadian Securities Administrators are striving to have this national instrument finalized and ready for implementation by April 1, 2009. It is necessary for all provinces and territories to amend their respective securities legislation to adopt these provisions. Saskatchewan is the only passport jurisdiction that has not yet passed or that has not yet scheduled to pass this fall these proposed amendments that adopt the harmonized registration requirements.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am requesting that this Bill be passed in the fall 2008 sitting of this Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, I have discussed this with my colleague across the way, and I'll look forward to speedy passage of this Bill.

If Saskatchewan is unable to pass this Bill prior to April 1, 2009, then the rest of the provinces and territories must wait for Saskatchewan in order to implement these harmonized registration provisions. It is advantageous to Saskatchewan not to be the source of the delay in implementing these harmonized provisions. It is advantageous to the passport jurisdictions to be able to demonstrate co-operative and timely implementation of harmonized improvements to the country's securities regime. It is advantageous to participants in Canada's capital markets to have these harmonized provisions implemented as soon as possible. It is advantageous to all provinces to know that the passport jurisdictions are able and ready to proceed with implementing the harmonized registration requirements.

These requirements must be implemented as the Canadian Securities Administrators finalize the national instrument as there are a number of consequential items that must be

completed following the passage of these amendments.

I realize that under the rules of this Assembly this Bill would not normally be passed until spring of 2009. However due to the reasons that I have just highlighted, I encourage all members to support the expedited passage of this Bill in the fall sitting of the legislature. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Justice minister that Bill No. 42, *The Securities Amendment Act* be now read a second time.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the member from The Battlefords.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to speak on Bill No. 42, *The Securities Amendment Act, 2008*. It was a pleasure to listen to the minister's speech outlining the reasons why the Act is required and the part where he says we have to absolutely pass this or everybody's going to be mad at us.

Mr. Speaker, three things I think that I want to say on this Bill right now. First of all, we are certainly aware that it is important to deal with matters relating to this passport system and updating the federal regulations. Mr. Speaker, we have certainly in the past been involved in discussions with other provinces on this matter as, of course, members on this side of the House have in a number of different areas, Mr. Speaker, been involved in federal-provincial discussions that have resulted in federal-provincial programs across the country. Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt about it; this securities piece is one that we are quite familiar with.

The second thing I wanted to say is a direct result of that first comment. My colleague, the member from Saskatoon who was formerly minister of Justice, has certainly been involved in these discussions as a former minister of Justice with his former colleagues in other provinces and is quite familiar with the process that's being discussed here in Bill No. 42.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, my colleague here is trying to very much determine how much of the speech just given by the current Minister of Justice he wrote when he was the minister of Justice sitting on that side of the House. And we have calculated, Mr. Speaker, roughly that probably about half of what the current Minister of Justice had to say has been delivered in the past, a speech that has been delivered in the past by the member here from Saskatoon.

That having been said, the other half, Mr. Speaker, I mean before we even have debate begun on this legislation, the Minister of Justice is already accusing the opposition of holding up the Bill. He's actually charging us, Mr. Speaker, with doing speedy passage of legislation we might otherwise be inclined to support, but he's charging us with making sure that we do this as quickly as we can.

[14:45]

Mr. Speaker, we pride ourselves on our due diligence. When we did news releases in government, Mr. Speaker, we didn't have

to correct them two, three days in a row, Mr. Speaker, because we did our due diligence, Mr. Speaker. We worked very hard with the constituent groups around the province on various issues, Mr. Speaker, and because of that due diligence, at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, we knew we were doing the right thing.

Well, Mr. Speaker, we would certainly do that as far as *The Securities Act* is concerned. And, Mr. Speaker, we will be interested in asking the minister a few questions in committee because of course, Mr. Speaker, this Bill will go to committee. But I'm sure now, thanks to the minister's intervention, his speech, we'll probably ask the minister, why is it that if all the other provinces have taken care of this in the last year, why hasn't this government dealt with it in the last year? Why is a last-minute introduction into the Chamber our fault in the opposition of holding it up?

Mr. Speaker, this approach doesn't make a lot of sense. If the Bill needs to be passed and can be passed, Mr. Speaker, the opposition will certainly be there to support and play our role in federal-provincial negotiations and ensuring that there are regulations in place protecting individuals, particularly investors, who live and work and make their living here in the province of Saskatchewan.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I can indicate some support for this legislation at this time, the minister has opened some doors that will require us to ask a few questions. So, Mr. Speaker, that having been said, I would therefore move that we now adjourn debate on Bill No. 42, *The Securities Amendment Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 43 — *The Trespass to Property Act*

The Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Trespass to Property Act*. This Act will create a new provincial offence of trespass. Unlike other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, Saskatchewan does not currently have petty trespass legislation of general application. We do have legislation dealing with specific circumstances like snowmobiling and operation of all-terrain vehicles. The new legislation is not meant to replace those pieces of legislations and they will continue to apply.

The Act will make it an offence to do a number of things, unless acting under lawful authority. The Act will make it an offence to enter a posted or enclosed lands or other premises without the consent of the occupier. It will be an offence to enter onto lands or other premises, even if not posted or enclosed, after being requested not to do so by the occupier. And further it will be an offence to engage in prohibited activities on lands or other premises without the consent of the occupier.

The Act will also make it an offence to fail to leave premises or fail to stop an activity after being requested to do so. It will be an offence to re-enter premises after leaving pursuant to a request to do so and to resume an activity after discontinuing the activity pursuant to a request to do so.

Mr. Speaker, the onus will be on the defendant to prove that he or she had the consent of the occupier to enter onto premises or to engage in activity on the premises. A person found on enclosed land will be presumed not to have the consent of the occupier to be there.

Under the Act, a peace officer may request that persons leave private property or stop activities on private property. If they don't, the peace officer may issue a ticket. A peace officer may also do this with respect to any property in situations that require prompt action to prevent harm to people or property. Peace officers will have the ability to arrest persons refusing to comply with the Act. People in contravention of the Act will be liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to \$2,000.

It will be a defence to a charge under the Act for a person to prove that he or she reasonably believed that he or she has title to or an interest in the premises in question. It will also be a defence that that person had the consent of an occupier of the premises or was acting under lawful authority or that he or she had an honest and reasonable belief that he or she was acting with consent or under lawful authority.

Mr. Speaker, the Act contains detail about appropriate signage and other notice that may be given under the Act.

If a contravention is committed with a motor vehicle, the driver of the vehicle will be liable under the Act. If the driver is not the owner of the vehicle, the owner will be liable unless the driver is convicted of the offence or the motor vehicle was in possession of someone other than the owner without his or her consent.

The Trespass to Property Act seeks to balance the reasonable expectation of landowners and those wanting to access privately owned property to enjoy the great Saskatchewan outdoors. To that end, Mr. Speaker, the Act is not applied to individuals engaging in lawful hunting, fishing, or trapping activities, and for the benefit of my mother, berry picking. As well the Act will not apply to vacant agricultural Crown lands, Crown resource lands, or parklands that are used for public recreation purposes. It is not the intention of our government to restrict access to such lands intended for public use beyond current regulation contained in other Acts.

The Act will also not apply to people acting in the course of their duties, such as emergency personnel or meter readers, etc. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Trespass to Property Act*.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — Question before the Assembly is the motion by the Justice minister that Bill No. 43, *The Trespass to Property Act* be now read a second time. Is the pleasure of the Assembly ... ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today on Bill No. 43, *The Trespass to Property Act*.

I appreciate the explanation provided by the minister here a few moments ago. The minister does provide us with enough information to begin some work in this regard. But, Mr. Speaker, I think the public needs to be aware of course that this is a new Act for the province of Saskatchewan. It's going into territory that for all intents and purposes there has not been a broad discussion across the province.

There are a number of issues here including the fact that, as the minister alluded to, certain offences result from the Act, and the police actually are being given new responsibilities. And I think when that happens, there's a number of questions that need to be asked. There's some subjectivity in the Bill, certain things that are not as clear as perhaps they could be on the surface, and indeed we need to investigate those.

Mr. Speaker, I think the most significant element about this Bill that needs some further review, of course, is what's called the law of unintended consequence because it's a new Act, Mr. Speaker, and on the surface, there are clauses in the Act that seem to make perfect sense. One has to look beyond the clause itself to determine what the unintended consequence may be and what the response or follow-up will be.

And also, Mr. Speaker, of course there are some exemptions and the exemptions again seem to make sense. It's one of the reasons why Saskatchewan didn't have a trespass Act in the past, Mr. Speaker, primarily because the people who have been exempted, Mr. Speaker, had legitimate reasons why trespass Act was unnecessary. So, Mr. Speaker, part of the questions about why the Act is necessary does go back to why the exemptions are necessary in the Act and were reasons for an Act not to exist previously.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we have considerable amount of work to do on the new trespass to property Act. Mr. Speaker, this is an area that of course we will want to do a considerable amount of work on. Mr. Speaker, I also think this is one of those Acts that perhaps once it gets to committee, that committees could have some role in identifying some public participation in the review of the clauses within the Act and of course the consequences attached to them.

So, Mr. Speaker, because we have quite a bit of work to do both on this side of the House and the other side — because I'm sure that the government has as much interest in unintended consequences as the opposition does — I think because there is considerable amount of work that yet has to be done in this regard, Mr. Speaker, I would move that the debate on Bill No. 43, *The Trespass to Property Act*, that the debate be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 48 — *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of Finance.

Hon. Mr. Gantefoer: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of Bill No. 48, *An Act to amend The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 1993*. This Bill increases automatic interim funding at the start of a fiscal year from one-twelfth of the previous year's estimates to two-twelfths. This will allow ministries to operate existing programs until the main appropriation Act is enacted by the normal completion date of the legislative session. The normal completion day is the Thursday before Victoria Day in May.

Mr. Speaker, when the old fiscal year has expired on March 31 and before the main appropriation Act is enacted for the new fiscal year, the government requires funding to operate. Automatic interim funding currently provide the ministries with one-twelfth of their previous year's estimates.

In prior years, certain ministries have required additional funding in order to address their spending requirements. For example Education has required additional funding to pay grants to schools. This has meant that the legislature had had to deal with an interim supply Bill at the same time it was dealing with other estimates concurrently.

Mr. Speaker, increasing automatic interim funding to two-twelfths will improve the administrative efficiency of this Assembly because it would allow the Assembly to focus more on the main estimates and other important work such as the legislative agenda. As before, automatic interim funding becomes a part of the next appropriation Act. This amendment will be effective upon assent. Mr. Speaker, I move second reading of an Act to amend the financial securities Act, 1993.

The Deputy Speaker — Question for the Assembly is the motion by the Finance minister that Bill No. 48, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise at second reading here of Bill No. 48, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act*. Listening carefully to the minister across the way and having consulted with the Finance critic for the New Democratic Party, Mr. Speaker, I'm inclined to indicate our support for this legislation.

It is the type of legislation that indeed makes perfect sense. The minister opposite has provided strong arguments in this regard. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, there are one or two things that we just need some clarification. Once we get that clarification, Mr. Speaker, I think that this is one of those pieces of legislation that we could, having done some, as I say, our due diligence on this Bill, Mr. Speaker, we could probably provide support to expedite the passage of this Act.

That having been said, Mr. Speaker, we are going to seek some clarification on this Bill, and therefore, Mr. Speaker, for today anyway, I would move that debate on Bill No. 48, *The Financial Administration Amendment Act* be adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[15:00]

Bill No. 46 — *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister for Enterprise and Innovation.

Hon. Mr. Stewart: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I'm pleased to present to the House for second reading *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2008*. As the members of this House are aware, our province is in the midst of an economic renaissance. However labour challenges have become one of the most important issues facing the drivers of this economy — Saskatchewan businesses. The Act seeks to address an aspect of this issue from the legislative quarter.

Mr. Speaker, given the critical importance of labour issues with respect to our economic momentum and the quality of life for the people of this province, we must be bold, timely, and above all proactive in our approach to them. It is our mandate to do so and indeed our responsibility to those who have given us this mandate. For this reason several key amendments are contained in the Act.

One relates to Enterprise Saskatchewan. Under *The Enterprise Saskatchewan Act*, the agency will be instrumental in working with labour organizations as it moves forward with its goal to make recommendations to government about economic growth and removing barriers to that growth. Because of the major labour issues related to this goal, it is necessary for Enterprise Saskatchewan to have a close working relationship with the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission. To this end, the revised wording of the Act lists one individual appointed by the minister to represent the agency. This amendment will allow this close working relationship with the agency.

Also the commission board currently has 19 members. The recommended amendments reduce the size of the board to 11 members in order to enhance its efficiency, its ability to react in a more timely fashion, and continue to ensure the diversity of its representation. Existing legislation commits government to appointing labour and business board members in consultation with the most representative organizations of labour and business. The recommended amendments to appointment criteria increase flexibility and ensure that increased representation of the province's workers and business persons is achievable. The recommended amendments also limit board members by two two-year terms rather than unlimited three-year terms. This is in order to promote turnover and new input.

We feel these amendments are in the best interests of the Saskatchewan Labour Market Commission, of the current and future provincial economy, and the people of this province. Mr.

Deputy Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2003*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Minister of Enterprise and Innovation that Bill No. 46, *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to rise on second reading of Bill No. 46, *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, I think, is going to prove to be very problematic for members of the opposition and for the public generally. I am quite torn, Mr. Speaker, in this regard because what I would like to do today, Mr. Speaker, but I'm going to spare members of government and the public my speech in this regard, but what I would like to do today, Mr. Speaker, is provide quite an extensive speech with regards to the needs of labour, the needs of business, the needs of our economy that ties business and labour together, Mr. Speaker, because certainly the labour shortage in our province right now is creating undue stress in a lot of our communities and on a lot of business people currently.

And, Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that we need to find a way to ensure that training and the providing of labour to business and investors who are putting money into businesses in this province, Mr. Speaker, are aligned to ensure the continued growth. I know that's the minister's intention. I know that's the government's intention of dealing with this particular piece of legislation.

But why this is somewhat problematic for me, Mr. Speaker . . . Actually let me back up just for a second. We go back to question period today. One of the questions asked to the government across the floor earlier today had to do with the circumstances in the town of Meadow Lake. The town of Meadow Lake, the regional college operating there, has a very close working relationship with the business community in the town and surrounding the town of Meadow Lake.

They have determined over the last two years what the long-term needs for labour are going to be in that community. And, Mr. Speaker, the college designed and set up programs to deliver to ensure that students who want to work within these certain industries can get the proper training, and employers can indeed find trained workers for the jobs that they need to do to further build the economy in the town of Meadow Lake.

But, Mr. Speaker, the college went to all of the work to consult with industry, to build the courses, to put them in place and to advertise them. And, Mr. Speaker, the unemployment rate in Meadow Lake and north is still considerable. And, Mr. Speaker, young people and older people were applying for jobs at the regional . . . for training opportunities at the regional college.

They come into town to take these courses and find that they have no place to live. Mr. Speaker, they can't put up tents to take programs through the winter months in the town of Meadow Lake. So they abandon the courses. And the regional college, as we understand it, has had to cancel some programs.

Business people are unhappy. Students are unhappy. Mr. Speaker, there's a failure here, a breakdown between what it is that we need to do with what it is that's actually being done.

Mr. Speaker, there are responsibilities that government has to help to deal with the challenges that growth is presenting to our municipalities, to our regional colleges, and to the people who are in position to benefit from the growth that's taking place, because they aren't currently, Mr. Speaker.

So now I jump further ahead to again some of my concerns, my personal concerns. I've worked with the existing Labour Market Commission, Mr. Speaker, as a member of government and formerly as an individual in my community. I have a great deal of respect for the work that the Labour Market Commission has done in this province. I don't believe that there are a lot of obstacles, roadblocks or barriers to growth that the current commission has, Mr. Speaker, and therefore I'm torn with the arguments of course that are being brought forward that we need to do something to further bring business and labour together.

But, Mr. Speaker, I fear that what this legislation does is it basically guts the intent of and the benefits of the Labour Market Commission and ties it to Enterprise Saskatchewan, which for all intents and purposes has not been well communicated to the public in Saskatchewan. People all over the province are still wondering, what is this Enterprise Saskatchewan anyway? It's a ministry. It's an agency. It's got some people appointed. Where did they come from?

There's a lot of questions, Mr. Speaker, about Enterprise Saskatchewan and now we're kind of rolling the Labour Market Commission into Enterprise Saskatchewan. We're moving away from the expectations and needs of the Saskatchewan people while at the same time talking to the people of Saskatchewan as if we were doing all the right things.

Well, Mr. Speaker, this is a piece of legislation that's going to require a considerable amount of work by members of the opposition. It should also require a considerable amount of work by government because I think there needs to be a lot more consultation out there from a lot of different individuals, groups, organizations, and communities.

So, Mr. Speaker, without going into a great deal of detail on a day when we have quite a number of second readings that we want to get in process, Mr. Speaker, I will save further remarks in this regard for another day and perhaps in the committees.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would therefore move that debate on Bill No. 46, *The Labour Market Commission Amendment Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate.

Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 44 — *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act, 2008*. *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Act* was enacted in 1917 and requires that all proceedings by a seller to end a contract or agreement for sale of land go before a court. The Act was intended to address the bargaining positions that often existed between sellers who were in a position to provide financing and less sophisticated buyers. The Act was intended to protect buyers who, by virtue of the agreement for sale, had established equity in the land through payments, but had not yet obtained title to the land. The Act was not intended to address sales of land where one payment transaction takes place between the parties following which the title is transferred or where the seller is not providing financing.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments will add a definition of contract or agreement for sale of land. This will limit the application of the Act to proceedings brought by sellers who provide financing or accept instalment payments for the land over a period of time of more than six months. By defining contract or agreement for sale, the application of the Act will be clarified for users and avoid unnecessary court applications where the cancellation of an agreement does not fall within the scope of the Act.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed amendments will also define agreement for sale in each of *The Land Contracts (Actions) Act*, *The Limitation of Civil Rights Act*, and *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*. All of these Acts consider actions for the cancellation of an agreement for the sale of land. Adding the same definition to each of these Acts will ensure that agreement for sale is given the same meaning for all types of land.

Mr. Speaker, adding a definition to each of these Acts will not change the substance of those Acts, as each was intended to protect purchasers who enter into an agreement for sale over a period of time and establish equity in the land. Each Act will continue to protect purchasers who have an established interest in land.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act, 2008*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Justice minister that Bill No. 44, *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate you recognizing me on second reading of Bill No. 44, the agreements of sale cancellation agreement Act. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to say a few words in this regard on Bill No. 44, and I appreciate the comments made by the Minister of Justice.

It does appear, Mr. Speaker, on the surface, that this Bill is primarily housekeeping. Mr. Speaker, I don't have a lot to say

about this legislation. However I do know that because this will affect a number of people in the legal community, now that the Bill has been published and the minister has his comments on record, I would like to circulate those comments amongst some people that I . . . I know I respect all members of the legal community, but for this purpose some members that I specifically respect, Mr. Speaker, in the legal community to review the Bill and provide me with some additional advice in this regard.

So while I think this Bill is housekeeping and can be supported, Mr. Speaker, at this time I would move that Bill No. 44, *The Agreements of Sale Cancellation Amendment Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 45 — *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise today to move second reading of *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008*. Mr. Speaker, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008* amends *The Credit Union Act, 1998*.

The Credit Union Deposit Guarantee Corporation, also known as CUDGC, is a body corporate created pursuant to *The Credit Union Act, 1998*. CUDGC was formed in 1953 as Canada's first deposit protection agency and has successfully delivered on its mandate of protecting depositors. CUDGC serves as the in-system regulator of Saskatchewan's 66 autonomous credit unions and provides an unlimited guarantee on all funds on deposit. CUDGC employs a risk-based prudential regulatory approach that holds credit unions to standards of sound business and financial practice. Consequently, Saskatchewan credit unions are strong, stable, and well capitalized.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill deals with the governance of CUDGC. *The Credit Union Act, 1998* currently provides that the CUDGC board is to consist of — and I'll list them — two individuals appointed by Credit Union Central, the chief executive officer of Credit Union Central or the CEO's nominee, the deputy minister of Justice or the nominee of the deputy, and the deputy minister of Finance or the nominee of that deputy.

[15:15]

The current legislation governing the composition of the CUDGC board is out of step with current governance principles and the trend towards board members who are independent of the regulated entity. The current structure of the CUDGC board is not in keeping with similar deposit guarantee corporations in other jurisdictions where the majority of board members are government appointments or are otherwise independent of the regulated entities.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will modify the composition of the CUDGC board so that Credit Union Central appoints two independent members and one credit union affiliated person in addition to the CEO of Credit Union Central or the CEO's nominee, who remains as a member of the CUDGC board. The amendment also requires that the Lieutenant Governor in Council appoint one independent member in addition to the deputy minister of Justice and the deputy minister of Finance appointments, who will remain as members of the CUDGC board. Credit Union Central and the Lieutenant Governor in Council through the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General will consult with one another before making their independent appointments.

The result of this amendment will be a seven-person board comprised of three independent members, two Government of Saskatchewan members, and two credit union affiliated members. With five out of the seven board members outside of the credit union system, the legislation achieves the goal of a more independent CUDGC board. These additional appointments continue to ensure a CUDGC board with sufficient expertise to conduct its business.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments reflect our province's commitment to stable and secure financial institutions. Credit Union Central and CUDGC have been consulted and are satisfied with the proposed amendments. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question for the Assembly is the motion by the Justice minister that Bill No. 45, *The Credit Union Amendment Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise on Bill No. 45, *The Credit Union Amendment Act*. It is with appreciation that I have had the opportunity to listen to the minister's explanation as to why *The Credit Union Amendment Act* is necessary and what purpose it serves.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of concern about the financial sector as a result of the turmoil in the United States. There is some recognition by many in this province that the federal government has been regulating the banks in Canada to the extent that what is taking in place in the United States certainly will not happen here in Canada, but those same individuals wonder about what is taking place within our credit union system — a financial system, Mr. Speaker, that the majority of Saskatchewan members have got some relationship with.

Mr. Speaker, when the minister talks about the Act helping to secure or to build or to maintain stability within the credit union system, these are words that the people of Saskatchewan need to hear, want to hear. So, Mr. Speaker, when we see words like that — stability within the system — being brought forward by the minister and an Act that he argues will provide some additional stability in a system that is providing good service to the people of Saskatchewan, well of course, Mr. Speaker, we feel that this is heading in the right direction.

That having been said, Mr. Speaker, obviously it's very important that if we're sending a message to the public about the stability of the credit union system, we need to know what we are talking about, and we need to provide the examples and the information to them that they can have confidence in our communications in that regard.

So, Mr. Speaker, while I think that this Bill may be doing the right thing at the right time, any time government starts to concern itself with the numbers of people on boards and who gets to be on those boards and what the criteria for those boards' actions are, of course there's a need for some questions to be asked.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, we in the New Democratic Party want to do some consultation. In this case it shouldn't take very long to do that, and we'll have a few questions in committee when the Bill finally gets there. We aren't ready to send it to committee just yet, Mr. Speaker, so therefore I would move that debate on Bill No. 45, *The Credit Union Amendment Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — Opposition House Leader has made a motion to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 50 — *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act*. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a Bill that will update the province's antiquated legislation with respect to the property of missing persons, will also create presumption of death provisions and address concerns raised by the provincial partnership committee on missing persons.

The provincial partnership committee on missing persons was established as a response to concerns arising from the tragedy of missing persons in this province. The committee, which consists of representatives from 14 organizations throughout the province, recently issued a final report that considers 20 areas of recommendation.

One recommendation was that a comprehensive legislative response be undertaken to deal with the estates of missing persons. Families of missing persons have raised concerns regarding the lack of a clear process with respect to an interim authority to act, and the ability to obtain information.

Families have also had difficulty dealing with the day-to-day affairs of a missing person, the declaration of a person as missing, and later the presumption of death. The Government of Saskatchewan has adopted the committee's recommendation and with this new Act we are undertaking legislative reform by repealing *The Absentee Act* and proposing new legislation regarding missing persons and the presumption of death.

The Absentee Act does not adequately address the administration of the absentee's estate or consider the presumption of death of an absentee for the final distribution of the estate.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will update provisions surrounding declaration of a person as missing, appointment of a property guardian, and management of the missing person's estate. By defining missing person, the new Act will establish a three-month benchmark to assist the court in making a declaration where appropriate. A person may also be declared missing prior to three months elapsing if the court is satisfied that other circumstances are met.

The new Act will also establish clear provisions with respect to the appointment process, with relatives and the Public Guardian and Trustee being given copies of the application and also the opportunity to object.

The new provisions will also allow the court to place conditions and restrictions upon the appointment of a property guardian, require the property guardian to file an inventory and provide a yearly accounting. They will also allow for the removal of the property guardian who fails to comply with his or her duties under the Act.

The Bill clarifies the role of the Public Guardian and Trustee in the management of the estates of missing persons. The new Act creates specific provisions for the Public Guardian and Trustee to act without an order where the estate of an alleged missing person is valued below a specified monetary limit or where a property guardian has not yet appointed and the estate needs to be preserved.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will also establish access to information provisions to assist families and the police in obtaining information. Often those applying to manage the estate of a missing person cannot obtain information without a court order and cannot obtain a court order without information regarding the estate. Police officers have also expressed difficulty in obtaining information for the purpose of a missing person investigation. The new Act contains provisions allowing for access to information with a court application.

Mr. Speaker, the new Bill will create clear presumption of death provisions to allow the family of the missing person and the court to more effectively deal with estates in the long term. New provisions will also consider the actions of an executor and an administrator where they have reason to believe that a person presumed to be dead is still alive and how property may be returned to the person presumed to be dead if he or she is later found to be alive.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will ensure that the families of missing persons are able to address interim and ongoing concerns in an effective manner during an incredibly difficult time, and will also assist in the ongoing investigation into the location of missing persons. This Bill is a step towards establishing a full response towards missing persons and also continues this government's commitment to legislative reform.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to move second reading of *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act*.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Justice minister that Bill No. 50, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act* be now read a second time.

Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure for me to rise to speak on Bill No. 50, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act*. And once again I appreciate the Minister of Justice clarifying some of the explanatory notes and providing us an opportunity to understand what the intention of the government is in moving forward with this Bill.

There's a couple of things that the minister said that make me feel pretty good, Mr. Speaker. Number one is that he indicated that of course the commission — I think it's the commission, the group that was consulted on this matter — that by and large their recommendations are being adopted by this. The reason I say that, Mr. Speaker, is I believe that my colleague from Saskatoon Meewasin, the former minister of Justice, established that commission or that group, and so to recognize and understand that the work that they did is being respected in the development of this Act, Mr. Speaker, does make me feel pretty good.

Secondly, Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt that whenever a government must deal with estate matters of any kind, there are generally complications. And we need to be sure that matters are completely clear for all parties involved in an area of potential dispute. So I think, Mr. Speaker, the legal community will also be quite pleased to see this.

That having been said, Mr. Speaker, of course any time we engage in something new, we need to identify how far it goes. Does it go far enough? Does it go too far? We have to identify those pieces which of course we will get at with some consultation ourselves, and of course through some questions at the committee stage.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we know that the Act in front of us calls for the repeal of *The Absentee Act*. Mr. Speaker, any time you repeal an Act, you are getting rid of some things that people have come to know. And one of the things that we'll have to do in our review of this legislation is of course review what is being repealed in getting rid of *The Absentee Act* and how those changes or the loss of that is incorporated back into the new legislation. Some parts of it may be gone because they're redundant, other parts may be gone because of a subjective argument. So, Mr. Speaker, we do have a little bit of additional work to do here in reviewing the about-to-be-repealed *Absentee Act*.

And secondly, to ensure that those who will most benefit from the new Act are in concurrence that the benefits that are desired are in fact being able to be delivered. This is an area of considerable importance to the public in this province and across Canada for that matter, Mr. Speaker. But the importance here today is for the people in this province.

So therefore, Mr. Speaker, because we still have a considerable

amount of work to do on this Bill, I would move that debate on Bill No. 50, *The Missing Persons and Presumption of Death Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — Opposition House Leader has made a motion to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

[15:30]

Bill No. 51 — *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2008*. This Act will provide that for allegations of misconduct, the Judicial Council will retain jurisdiction over judges for a period of two years after they have resigned or retired. It will also provide detail about the valuation and division of a judge's pension upon a spousal relationship breakdown.

Presently a Provincial Court judge who may be the subject of a complaint of misconduct is able to avoid investigation and discipline by the Judicial Council by resigning. *The Provincial Court Act, 1998* only gives the court jurisdiction over current judges.

The amendments will provide that proceedings may be commenced against a former judge within two years of resignation or retirement if the Judicial Council receives a complaint of misconduct or otherwise becomes aware of possible misconduct by the former judge. This provision is consistent with professions legislation in Saskatchewan allowing discipline of former members. Examples of such legislation are *The Legal Profession Act, 1990*, *The Medical Profession Act, 1981*, *The Pharmacy Act, 1996*, and *The Veterinarians Act, 1987*. These Acts provide that proceedings must be commenced within two years of the day the person ceased to be a member of their professional association.

Mr. Speaker, the pension amendments will provide detail about the valuation and division of a judge's pension on a spousal relationship breakdown. *The Family Property Act, 1997* provides that, as a general rule, family property is to be distributed equally between spouses on marital breakdown.

The courts have said that pension benefits accruing to spouses during the relationship are part of family property. While section 31 of *The Provincial Court Act, 1998* allows for a payment out of the pension fund to satisfy an order made pursuant to *The Family Property Act*, the Act does not deal or does not contain more detailed administrative provisions found in other pension legislation regarding division on spousal relationship breakdown.

Mr. Speaker, the recommended amendments are similar to provisions in *The Pension Benefits Act, 1992*. The amendment Act will place a requirement on the plan administrator to divide

the pension in proportion set out in a court order or interspousal agreement made pursuant to *The Family Property Act*. It will stipulate that the spouse's portion must be transferred to an RRSP [Registered Retirement Savings Plan] or a similar retirement savings vehicle. It will also specify that the judge's remaining entitlement may not be less than 50 per cent of the total value of the pension entitlement.

If an order or interspousal agreement is filed solely by the spouse, the Act will require the plan administrator to give notice and an opportunity to object to the plan member. This follows the model for division of defined benefit pension in *The Pension Benefits Act, 1992*. The amendments will provide rules for division of the pension, depending on whether the plan member has retired or is eligible to retire.

Mr. Speaker, these amendments will ensure proper scrutiny of a former judge's conduct and will provide certainty respecting the division of a judge's pension on the breakdown of a spousal relationship. I am pleased to move second reading of *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2008*.

The Deputy Speaker: — Question for the Assembly is the motion by the Justice minister that Bill No. 51, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure and a privilege to rise on Bill No. 51, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act* at second reading, and I thank the Minister of Justice for his explanation of this Bill.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that any time that we do work that has to do with pensions and benefits and matters that are relating to remuneration and those things that assist with ensuring that the people who serve the public through government are compensated in manners similar to those in other provinces, etc., always requires updating and always require a little bit of extra work.

Mr. Speaker, I know that this legislation has taken a little while to come through the Ministry of Justice. I remember back a little over a year ago when I was sitting on the legislative instruments committee of the then New Democratic Party government, Mr. Speaker, we were talking about legislation that would have taken us very much in a similar direction. It wasn't finished, Mr. Speaker, because additional work needed to be done.

So, Mr. Speaker, in principle, the legislation that's currently in front of us is supportable in principle, Mr. Speaker, because I, at this point anyway, I recognize a considerable amount of what's there from discussions that I've been engaged in previously. That having been said, Mr. Speaker, there are some clauses that appear in this legislation that had not been discussed a year ago that have come forward since the new government took office, and as a result of that, Mr. Speaker, I believe that our Justice critic wants to review the words of the minister in introducing the legislation and consult with representatives of the legal community, including those in the academic area of the legal community, to ensure that the direction that the government is taking is indeed the correct direction.

That having been said, Mr. Speaker, I think that this also is one of those matters that we would like to see move to committee in case some of the consultations that we undertake convince us that perhaps some amendments to this legislation might be necessary, and were that to be the case, Mr. Speaker, we could only do that at the committee stage.

I'm not trying to prejudge the consultations, Mr. Speaker, but knowing that we support the Bill generally in principle, I'm not anticipating a great deal of time to be involved in this. So that having been said, Mr. Speaker, I therefore move that debate on Bill No. 51, *The Provincial Court Amendment Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has made a motion to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

**Bill No. 54 — *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008/*
*Loi de 2008 sur les services de l'état civil***

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of CIC [Crown Investments Corporation of Saskatchewan].

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008*.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill will repeal and replace both *The Vital Statistics Act, 1995* and the unproclaimed vital statistics Act, 2007. *The Vital Statistics Act* is bilingual legislation, Mr. Speaker. As such both the English and French language versions must be passed by this legislature.

The English language version of *The Vital Statistics Act, 2007*, Bill No. 61, was passed in the spring 2007 session and received Royal Assent but has not been proclaimed. The French language version was not passed, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

As you know, transfer of responsibility for the administration of vital statistics from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Crown Corporations through ISC [Information Services Corporation of Saskatchewan] occurred on October 12 of this year, with the proclamation of *The Vital Statistics Administration Transfer Act*, Bill No. 28. As a result of the administrative transfer, the unproclaimed vital statistics Act, 2007 needed to be updated.

Also in the course of translating the English version into French, a number of other substantive changes were identified and as a result *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008* came into existence. The new Bill recognizes the transfer to the Information Services Corporation, and continues to contain many of the policy choices and responsibilities on the previous Bill.

The collection and maintenance of vital statistics has been an important part for a long time of this province's history. The core legislative principles for the registration of vital statistics

dates back to 1888, predating the creation of the province of Saskatchewan. The current draft embodies the core legislative principles that have been carried forward throughout the years to the most recent vital statistics legislation that came into force in 1995.

That today I'm here introducing new legislation modernizing but still maintaining the major principles of the original legislation, goes to show how important vital statistics are. Birth, marriage, and indeed death are the cornerstones of statistics in Saskatchewan. The vital statistics registry is responsible for that information, and so we'd better make sure that we collect, record, and use the information in the right way for this day and age.

And how do we make sure we do that, Mr. Deputy Speaker? First we recognize that today's world is much different than 1888. It's even different than 1995. Hospitals and funeral directors don't use the same processes that they did in the past, nor should they, since technology has advanced so much in just the past 13 years. What used to be done on paper is now done electronically, and we can use new technologies to streamline the process so it runs as efficiently as possible.

The need for vital statistics legislation is something that isn't going away. Just as babies were being born and people were getting married in 1888, babies are being born and people are getting married today and, Mr. Deputy Speaker, babies will be born and people will marry in 2088 as well.

That means that this is important that we get this legislation right, and to do that we need to consult with the experts who deal with vital statistics on a daily basis. Most of those consultations were done when the policy choices were made in the 2007 Act which forms the basis of the 2008 Act. *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008* reflects the hard work and effort of those people who were consulted previously, including the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the Funeral and Cremation Services Council of Saskatchewan, and Saskatchewan Justice, among others. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank them all for their contributions.

The Vital Statistics Act, 2008 will modernize the existing vital statistics Act, 1995. The new Act will allow for electronic registration and notices. The new version of the Act also reflects with greater clarity the way in which vital events are recorded by funeral directors, hospitals, and the vital statistics registry. Because the information we collect is important, we take our stewardship of that data seriously — especially when it comes to privacy protection. The new Act also provides transparency regarding the right of access to records and the rules in which personal information in vital statistics registration documents are collected, used, and disclosed.

With the proclamation of *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008*, Saskatchewan's disclosure policy will be more transparent than the legislation you'll find in most other provinces and territories. The proposed Bill will reflect the transfer of vital statistics to the Information Services Corporation, streamline vital event registration processes, create transparent rules with regard to access to information contained in vital statistics registrations, and enshrine rules governing the collection, use,

and disclosure of vital statistics information — which includes personal health information contained in the statement of birth, stillbirth, marriage, and death in the records held by the registrar — and adopted processes and protections consistent with the privacy law, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

And it would also enshrine in the legislation the persons who will be eligible to obtain certificates and other documents pertaining to registered vital events, create authority in the legislation for vital statistics to enter into information exchange and service provider agreements with other provincial and federal ministries and agencies, provide authority for electronic vital event notification processes, recognizes co-parents on the statement of live birth and stillbirth for children born in non-traditional family structures or born through assisted reproduction technologies, expanding the methods available to the registrar for the permanent retention of vital event documents to include scanning of the records into electronic databases, replace the requirement for the minister to table an annual report before this Legislative Assembly with the requirement for the registrar to annually publish statistical information respecting the live births, deaths, stillbirths, marriages in the preceding calendar year, and also provide the registrar with authority to correct an error or omission or fact on a statement that has already been registered.

Paper used to be the way records were kept. First we used pen and ink and then typewriters, then we used computers to make the records, and today the records themselves can be stored electronically. This legislation reflects the reality of technology and the benefits that technology can provide for record maintenance and retention. The new legislation facilitates the use of technology to make the process more efficient. We've removed the requirement of the district registrars. We've also allowed electronic registration and electronic storage of vital statistic records. This enables us to keep information longer and in a more secure manner.

We've also not only recognized changes in technology but also changes in family structure. Vital statistics legislation has served the people of Saskatchewan since 1888. I know I was speaking to the member from Cut Knife-Turtleford who said he was reading the legislation last night, and he knows that this has been around a long time and served our province very well. But times do change, Mr. Deputy Speaker. With the changing times comes the need for the update to *The Vital Statistics Act's* language and its policy to ensure Saskatchewan's legislation remains aligned with the times and the vital statistics legislation of other jurisdictions. This legislation achieves these goals.

[15:45]

And at this time, Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to thank the employees of ISC for taking on these new responsibilities with such enthusiasm. I know other jurisdictions are watching what we were doing in Saskatchewan. I would also like to thank previous members who have served as minister of Health and minister in charge of the Information Services Corporation as they began this work, and I'm just completing it for them.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move today second reading of *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008*. Thank you.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Crown Corporations that Bill No. 54, *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I thank you for recognizing me to speak here at second reading of Bill No. 54, *The Vital Statistics Act*. Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased to speak on this Act. As a former minister of Health, I view the work of the vital statistics people, the department, those that have been involved in this over the years, as being incredibly important to the well-being of this province.

The minister made it very clear in his remarks why maintaining vital statistics are important. And I don't have to say to those watching, anybody that's ever had a need for having some of their information from vital statistics knows how important it is that that information was collected properly and is available to be distributed properly.

But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, it's also the protection of that information that's important. And this is one of the reasons why the Department of Health, the former Department of Health, now the Ministry of Health, is one of the last departments — or now ministries — within government to transfer its data collection over to the Information Services Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, health information is protected under the HIPA — H-I-P-A — *The Health Information Protection Act*. And, Mr. Speaker, the public has a right to know that the health information that is collected on them is fully protected. That's what HIPA is all about. So, Mr. Speaker, whenever health information and vital statistics and that have the capacity of crossing, well of course, Mr. Speaker, we need as government to assure the public that of course their information is certainly protected.

At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we know that the collection of vital stats and the utilization of vital stats is something that people on a regular basis will want access to. You lose your birth certificate; you need to, as we've done in the past, update our health cards — those sorts of things, Mr. Speaker. Vital statistics, collection of information, is very helpful to the public and to government in that regard.

Mr. Speaker, technology has proven itself in the health system, and it's proving itself in so many different ways.

Mr. Speaker, I am one of the older generation now. I hate to think of myself as being older, an older member of our society. I still think of myself as being around 35 years old, able to play football with absolutely anybody. But I know that's not true, Mr. Speaker. I just feel that way.

But when it comes to technology, Mr. Speaker, I don't have the ability here to plug something in, although the technology is in this room, and google up any information that I want. But I was thinking that I would love to be googling right now comments that members opposite made when they were in opposition

about money that government was spending on the Information Services Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, I remember very, very clearly when they were firmly, firmly opposed to any of this movement to change the way land titles was operating or transferring data into this huge corporate structure, Mr. Speaker, for the collection of information. And now of course, Mr. Speaker, here they are a year into their mandate and they're transferring the largest data collection base into Information Services Corporation. Mr. Speaker, it is very interesting how indeed a little bit of time changes the way people think.

Now I might not, as an older person, have the full capacity to adapt to all this new technology. But certainly government does, Mr. Speaker, and government has adapted well to information technology maintenance and development. And the new government, Mr. Speaker, who apparently were very old when they were on this side of the Chamber and opposing all this technology development, has now on that side of the Chamber fully embraced, fully embraced the Information Services Corporation.

The Deputy Speaker: — Order. Order. I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — So, Mr. Speaker, the point that I want to make quite clearly is, obviously the development of ISC was a good move on behalf of government. It was the right thing to do. And, Mr. Speaker, it continues to be the right thing to do to ensure that all of the data is being centralized and maintained in one location.

What this legislation does, Mr. Speaker, is it effects the transfer of data from what was being kept by the Department — or now Ministry — of Health, to Information Services Corporation. The Act doesn't necessarily change things; it effects the transfer. Health was taking care of it; now ISC is taking care of it.

We will want to, Mr. Speaker, ensure that this transfer ensures the protection of information for where privacy is appropriate, and that ISC is fully, properly financed, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that they can do what it is that they are being asked to do.

There will be some questions that need to be asked, a little more research that the opposition needs to do. But, Mr. Speaker, there's no doubt, there's no doubt, Mr. Speaker, that what the government is doing with this legislation is continuing the work, the good work that has been in process for quite a number of years now, started by the previous government.

So given that we have a little more work to do, Mr. Speaker, I would move that debate on Bill No. 54, *The Vital Statistics Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 55 — *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Minister of CIC.

Hon. Mr. Cheveldayoff: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. I'm pleased to rise today to move second reading of *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act, 2008*.

I listened intently to the member opposite speak about the Information Services Corporation and I'm glad that he recognizes that this government is committed to running the Crown corporations in a business-like fashion. The large unbudgeted losses that happened under their term are a thing of the past and will not be something that this government undertakes, Mr. Speaker.

What we will do is recognize good ideas when we see them. Moving vital statistics from Health to ISC is a good idea and we're acting upon that. And we will move in that direction to increase efficiencies and to ensure that this corporation remains in the black and remains able to pay a dividend to the people of Saskatchewan — not the red ink that we saw from members opposite. Those days are gone, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

I rise today to talk about *The Vital Statistics Act, 2008*, Mr. Deputy Speaker, which is bilingual legislation. That Bill contains consequential amendments to bilingual statutes, like *The Marriage Act*, *The Adoption Act*, and *The Change of Name Act*. However, consequential amendments, Mr. Deputy Speaker, have also been made to the English-only legislation. And so *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act, 2008* is required to ensure the new vital statistics Act applies to those English language Acts and makes them compatible with the 2008 legislation.

Mr. Speaker, with that I am pleased to move second reading of *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act, 2008*. Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of the Crown Corporations that Bill No. 55, *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act, 2008* be now read a second time.

I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise on Bill No. 55, *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act*. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to say a few words and I will say only a few words on this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

Indeed this Bill does have to go in concert with *The Vital Statistics Act*, Bill No. 54. Since we've adjourned debate on 54, we will have to do the same with Bill 55, because they should be moving forward at the same pace. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I would move that debate on Bill No. 55, *The Vital Statistics Consequential Amendments Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has made a motion to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 52 — *The Trustee Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to move second reading of *The Trustee Act, 2008*. This new Act modernizes and updates the legislation respecting the responsibility and powers of trustees. Although many of the basic principles covered by legislation have not changed, the legislation has not kept up with changes in the law and in society over the past century. The new Act will be easier to understand and more relevant for trustees, those who advise trustees, and those who deal with trustees.

Trustee legislation facilitates the creation and administration of trusts. Prior to the enactment of trustee legislation, trustees were limited by the powers conferred upon them by the trust instrument. Thus trust instruments had to authorize all of the actions a trustee might be expected to take in administering the trust property.

The current trustee Act was originally enacted as a territorial ordinance in 1903 before Saskatchewan became a province, and is based on 19th century English legislation. The current Act is very dated in both its language and content.

The proposed amendments are based on recommendations made in a major report by the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan in 2002. The new Act addresses the fact that trustees are in a fiduciary position, administering property on behalf of another individual or group. This Act includes a duty-of-care provision and provides that professional trustees will be subject to a standard of care that relates to their profession or business.

Although a general conflict of interest rule exists in the case law as a deterrent to trustees from profiting from their position, it is not included in the current Act. Trustees must be aware of conflicts of interest and must govern themselves accordingly. The new Act includes provisions that address the conflicts of interest that trustees may face.

Trustees often administer trusts for long periods of time and are required to make substantial decisions regarding the trust. They need the flexibility to be able to take a variety of actions with respect to the trust. Trustees currently lack express statutory authority to undertake some basic actions such as obtaining insurance for trust property or maintaining or repairing property that is part of a trust. The new Act will provide trustees with the necessary powers to administer a trust.

The provisions for the removal and replacement of trustees require changes. In some circumstances a change in trustee may be necessary before the trust runs out. The current Act is unclear about the process and in what circumstance a trustee may be appointed or removed. The legislation should address situations where a trustee should not or cannot continue to act as a trustee.

The provisions for appointment and discharge of trustees' duties are being expanded to address situations where it is necessary to remove or replace a trustee.

This Act abolishes the rule against perpetuities and accumulations. And if you didn't go to law school, you won't even know what those things are. Nonetheless they are things that should be dealt with by the legislature. The rule against perpetuities is currently part of Saskatchewan law, dates back to the 17th century. It was devised to keep the English aristocracy from tying up its real property indefinitely. The complexity of the rule against perpetuities and its various modifications and exceptions creates a situation where most laypersons and many lawyers do not understand it and can run afoul of it unwittingly.

[16:00]

The Saskatchewan Law Reform Commission stated in a report in 1987 that the rule against perpetuities is perhaps the most notorious example of lawyers' law, quote. The commission concluded that the rule creates more problems than it solves and recommends its abolition. During the consultation process respecting this new legislation, persons in the Saskatchewan legal community who practise in the area of trust law requested we include the abolition of the rule as part of the reform of *The Trustee Act*.

The Trustee Act, 2008 will respond to the need to modernize the legislation to reflect current trustee practices and principles. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move the second reading of *The Trustee Act, 2008*. Thank you.

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is the motion by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 52, *The Trustee Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to rise on Bill No. 52, *The Trustee Act* and I want to thank the Minister of Justice for providing us with some explanation with regard to this Bill.

I must say that on my first reading of the legislation, I developed some immediate questions, not the least of which was sort of the motivation behind it, and so the minister has provided some direction in that regard.

I had to think twice when the minister made his comments about if you didn't go to law school, you wouldn't understand certain things. And, Mr. Speaker, I don't think the minister is aware that at one point in my education I was in law school. It was the best coffee on the university, Mr. Speaker. I was at the law school cafeteria and had coffee over there. It was absolutely wonderful, and I still don't understand some of the things that the minister has said even though I was in law school for a couple hours once.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I think that legislation does indeed need to be modernized. We need to seek advice when we are modernizing legislation, especially where human lives, quality of life are concerned. Trust relationships are indeed some of the most important ones that we must look after. And therefore

modernizing this legislation is important, and we need to ensure that those to whom we are seeking advice understand the various needs that go with that.

So, Mr. Speaker, I was not previously aware, on having read the legislation, that indeed the Law Reform Commission of Saskatchewan's 2002 recommendations were what was behind some of the changes, modernization changes that have been brought forward. I have a great deal of respect for the Law Reform Commission here in Saskatchewan, so I am pleased that those recommendations have been incorporated into this legislation. I'm now going to review the reports of the commission back in 2002 before further judging the legislation and talk to a number of experts in the fields of trusts, Mr. Speaker, before proclaiming one way or the other on this Bill.

I do again thank the minister for some of the explanation. I'm sure that he will be able to provide additional information when required by members of the opposition. So at this time, Mr. Speaker, given that there's now additional work that needs to be done in this regard, I would move that debate on Bill No. 52, *The Trustee Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried.

Bill No. 56 — *The Trustee Consequential Amendments Act, 2008/Loi de 2008 portant modifications corrélatives à la loi intitulée The Trustee Act, 2008*

The Deputy Speaker: — I recognize the Justice minister.

Hon. Mr. Morgan: — Mr. Speaker, I rise today to move second reading of *The Trustee Consequential Amendment Act, 2008*. This Act consequentially amends the three bilingual Acts that adopt the investment principles of *The Trustee Act*. In each case, the amendment makes a change to refer to the new legislation. These changes are made to ensure consistency with *The Trustee Act, 2008*.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to move second reading of *The Trustee Consequential Amendment Act, 2008*.

Some Hon. Members: — Hear, hear!

The Deputy Speaker: — The question before the Assembly is a motion by the Justice minister that Bill No. 56, *The Trustee Consequential Amendment Act, 2008* be now read a second time. Is the Assembly ready for the question? I recognize the Opposition House Leader.

Mr. Taylor: — Thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It is a pleasure to rise to speak to Bill No. 56, *The Trustee Consequential Amendment Act*, and I again thank the Minister of Justice for his explanation of the Bill.

The fact that we are talking about consequential amendments to an Act that has not yet been studied, reviewed or passed by this

Assembly, Mr. Speaker, would indicate that indeed we can't allow this Bill to proceed any more quickly than the Bill that preceded it, Bill No. 52, *The Trustee Act*. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, until such time as our work proceeds on Bill No. 52, I would move that debate on Bill No. 56, *The Trustee Consequential Amendment Act* be now adjourned.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Opposition House Leader has moved to adjourn debate. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. I recognize the Government House Leader.

Hon. Mr. Gantefer: — Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. It now being near to the close of day and the end of the second readings, I move that this House do now adjourn.

The Deputy Speaker: — The Government House Leader has made a motion to adjourn the House. Is it the pleasure of the Assembly to adopt the motion?

Some Hon. Members: — Agreed.

The Deputy Speaker: — Carried. This House now stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

[The Assembly adjourned at 16:08.]

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